COMMON CAUSE, OCTOBER 26, 1917.

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The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The Representation of the People Bill.

Several more clauses were added to the Bill last week, and on Monday the schedules of the Boundary Commissioners were discussed. The Registration rules as originally framed provided that women claiming to be registered should make a statutory declaration that they have attained the legal age. On an amendment by Mr. Dickinson it is enacted that every claimant shall make such a declaration. It has been decided that Scottish women are to vote for Parliamentary elections on the same qualifications as English women, but they are to vote in municipal elections on their present qualifications, which, it will be remembered, are wider than those which entitle women to vote for local councils in this country. Sir George Cave has accepted Irish Redistribution as part of the Bill.

The Education Bill.

Great disappointment will be felt at Mr. Bonar Law's announcement in the House of Commons on Friday that "he feared it would not be possible to pass the Education Bill this Session," and it is to be hoped that this decision may even now be reconsidered. It could not be expected that in such a complicated Bill every clause would receive unanimous support, but there has certainly been very little opposition to the strictly educational clauses. The administrative clauses, of which there has been a good deal of criticism from local authorities, could surely be modified or reconstructed in Committee, so as not to hold up the essential clauses of the Bill, which provide for the raising of the school age, the diminution of child labour, the establishment of continuation schools and the improvement of physical education.

The Swedish Settlement.

M. Eden has succeeded in his task, and Sweden has its new Ministry. Seven members are Liberals, four Social-Democrats. The new Government has two objects which it exists to further —the preservation of strict neutrality, and the introduction of electoral reform, comprising the enfranchisement of women and an unqualified communal vote.

The N.U.W.S.S. is sending the Swedish Women's Suffrage Society a congratulatory telegram on the friendly attitude of the new Ministry.

The Labour Party and Women Members.

The Re-organisation scheme prepared by the Executive of the Labour Party includes arrangements for the enlistment of women members, and also for reserving seats for women on the Executive. It is true that the Labour Party has always been open to women on the same terms as men, and that out of some two and a-half million of affiliated members about a quarter of a million are women; but owing to the legal formalities necessary before political action can be taken by a Trade Union the National Federation of Women Workers, the largest exclusively female Trade Union, is not affiliated to the Party, nor are several of the smaller women's unions. So far, the Party has not encouraged its women members to take an active part in its affairs, and it has never had a woman on its Executive. Now, however, a great effort is to be made to enrol women as members of the local Labour Parties. They are to have separate sections and be secured representation on the local Executives, and provision is made for there to be always at least four women members on the National Executive.

Scottish Liberal Women.

Scottish Liberals have also been quick to recognise the added importance of women members after they have been enfranchised. The Executive Committees of the Scottish Liberal Association and the Scottish Women's Liberal Federation met separately in Glasgow on Saturday, and it was unanimously agreed by both executives to advise their respective central and local associations to co-operate in the formation of new associations composed of men and women, instead of maintaining separate organisations.

A New Call to Economy.

The new campaign of the National War Savings Committee was begun last Monday by a meeting at the Albert Hall addressed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Bonar Law, and General Smuts. All three speakers dealt mainly with the war and the Allies' position. A general appeal was made for a husbanding of the nation's resources—for saving money, food, luxuries, energy, and labour, and for increasing production in every direction, but no suggestions were offered as to how these things can be achieved. More detailed directions will, no doubt, be given at the many smaller meetings that are to be held throughout the country, and which are to be addressed by women as well as by men. The need both for saving and for increasing our production has constantly been urged in THE COMMON CAUSE, and we always welcome any practical suggestions from our readers for new efforts.

Women on Food Control Committees.

Women are being urged on all sides to economise, but there seems very little disposition to give them an effective voice in the way in which our food supplies are to be controlled, though they are so much more directly concerned than men in its management. Out of 159 Food Control Committees from which information has so far been obtained, ninety-one have only one woman representative (the minimum number mentioned in the instructions), fifty-nine have two women members, and eleven have three. Great indignation is felt among women's organisations at the attitude which local councils are adopting, and in some localities strong protests are being made. It is to be hoped that even now changes may be made in the composition of these Committees, so that they may have the benefit of the advice of women representative of all classes.

LIFE'S HORIZON.

THE opportunities of the future for those who save are many. Do not spend all you earn. Save as much as you can week by week. Save for your children's education. Give them the right start in life. This is not preaching—it is sound common sense. Invest your money where it will grow and help your country at the same time. Buy Government securities—War Savings Certificates are ideal. Each 15/6 becomes £1 in five years, and you can get your money whenever you want it, or if you prefer them—buy National War Bonds. To do without *trifles* now will mean that you can buy *useful* things in the future.

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE,
(Appointed by His Majesty's Treasury)
Salisbury Square, London, E.C. 4.

Saving the Babies.

It is cheering to learn from the Supplement to the Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1916-1917, containing the Report of Sir Arthur Newsholme, Medical Officer to the Board, that our rate of infant mortality in 1916 was the lowest on record. But the birth-rate, it must be remembered, is also lower, and the Report strongly emphasises the need for saving child-life and improving the health of all survivors, expressing the opinion that the total number of deaths in childhood could be reduced to one-half their present number.

Further Powers for Local Authorities.

A little while ago there seemed good prospects of a great organised effort for the reduction of infant mortality. This hope has been disappointed. But though the scheme for a Ministry of Health has been shelved for the time being, there appears still to be some chance that a Maternity and Infant Welfare Bill may shortly be passed which will extend to England and Wales certain valuable provisions of the Notification of Births Act, 1915. As we pointed out in our last issue, the chief provisions of this Act apply at present only to Scotland and Ireland. These empower local authorities, among other steps for the welfare of both mother and child, to establish day nurseries and control the milk for infant-feeding. On Friday, October 19th, Mr. Hayes Fisher (President of the Local Government Board) received a deputation representing the Urban District Councils Association and the Rural District Councils Association, on this question, and was assured that if local authorities were given these further powers they would avail themselves of them vigorously. Mr. Hayes Fisher made a sympathetic reply, announcing his intention of asking the War Cabinet to allow him to introduce a Bill into the House of Commons immediately, and to push that Bill through the House of Commons and get it passed before Christmas. He warned the delegates, however, that there was a considerable amount of opposition in the House.

The Milk Supply and Women's Votes.

With regard to the milk supply, Mr. Hayes Fisher considered that—as we have already urged in these columns—special provision should be made for children and nursing mothers. Undoubtedly, he said, local authorities ought to have power in certain selected places to obtain a supply of milk for nursing mothers, because, the supply of milk being limited, there ought to be some priority in the locality as to who should have it when there was not sufficient to go round. And that ought to be largely in the hands of a local elected authority. He also agreed that local authorities should have powers with regard to establishing maternity homes, and it was deplorable that cases should exist where people were turned out of houses because another child was coming into the world. That was a most cruel thing.*

While agreeing with Mr. Hayes Fisher that such questions as the supply of milk and provision for maternity homes should be in the hands of local elected bodies, one is convinced that they will not be properly attended to until a greater number of women receive the municipal vote, and combine to use it, and until more women are elected to municipal councils.

Opposition from Insurance Organisations.

Mr. Hayes Fisher's further reply to the delegates also shows the need for women to have a much greater voice in the policy of insurance organisations, for he showed that the movement for the formation of a Ministry of Health is being made by these organisations an excuse for hanging up other measures for preserving infant life. He protested strongly against this attitude. If, he said, the National Insurance organisations wanted to preserve infant life, why on earth should they wait until that very large question of the Ministry of Health had been thrashed out, possibly by a Royal Commission, before they gave to local authorities in England and Wales powers which already existed in Scotland and Ireland?

There was a letter in *The Times* that day in which Mr. Kingsley Wood used the argument that the establishment of a Ministry of Health would save 1,000 lives a week, and he had put that prediction in the mouth of Lord Rhondda. Lord Rhondda never said anything of the kind. Lord Rhondda had always been in favour of the establishment of a Ministry of Health, but it would be seen from his speech that the Bill which he hoped might save 1,000 lives a week was not the Ministry of Health Bill, but the Maternity and Infant Welfare Bill.

* Examples of this are given in the Report on Industrial Unrest lately issued, especially from the Barrow-in-Furness District.

A Protest Against Delay.

We have received, too late for publication this week, a Memorandum by the Women's Co-operative Guild on the proposed Ministry of Health. In a covering letter Miss Llewelyn Davies, General Secretary of the Guild, writes :—

"Since the Memorandum was drawn up we see from the reply of Mr. Hayes Fisher to the deputation of Urban and Rural District Councils that he intends to ask the sanction of the War Cabinet for pushing through the House before Christmas a Bill extending the powers of public health authorities in regard to Maternity and Infancy work.

"We strongly desire such an extension of powers; and though we should have preferred that they should form part of a Bill establishing the Ministry of Health, rather than risk postponement we should be prepared to support the smaller Bill, which need in no way interfere with the prospects of the larger one."

Progress of the Housing Scheme.

Another measure that will greatly help to reduce the rate of infant mortality is the provision of better housing. Considerable progress has been made with the Government housing scheme which was initiated by Lord Rhondda, and has since been followed up with great vigour by Mr. Hayes Fisher, who has always been an advocate of a large scheme of housing.

From the returns so far received, which come from all classes of local authorities, large and small, and indicate willingness to build anything from ten to 1,000 houses straight away, it appears that the authorities will be able to start at once on the building of 150,000 houses, about one-half of the number which it is estimated will be required.

This is very promising as a beginning, but we should feel better satisfied that the returns made by the Local Authorities really represent the needs of their localities if women had been given more opportunities for stating their views. We commented last week on the neglect in many districts to obtain any evidence from women at all.

WIVES AND THE INCOME TAX.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has taken an important step in the direction of reversing the hitherto almost universally applied policy of penalising marriage by the imposition on the married of income tax at a higher rate than on the unmarried. In future, married men with incomes under £700 are to be allowed a rebate of £25 with respect to a wife, in addition to £25 with respect to each child under sixteen. This amounts to the very substantial sum of 1s. 1d. per week. The proposal has been hailed in the Press as a tax on bachelors. In this they have taken their facts from the official statement of the Board of the Inland Revenue, who have omitted to state that spinsters within the income-tax limit also will be required to pay the additional bachelor tax of 1s. 1d. per week. It is more correctly described as a tax on the unmarried.

This is all to the good, but it leaves untouched the large number of cases in which an enormous increase of income tax is imposed on two persons when they marry. Where the incomes of married persons are both earned, and the joint income is under £500, the incomes are reckoned separately for the purposes of income tax. This principle, however, should be made universal, as the following example of the present penalising of marriage shows.

Taking the approximate figures of the Board of the Inland Revenue, and the ratio of the earned to the unearned income tax based on these as four to three, as sufficiently accurate for comparative purposes, we find a bachelor earning £3 a week pays 1s. 1½d. a week income tax; a spinster with £3 of unearned income a week pays 1s. 6d. a week. Before marriage the total income tax payable by these two on a total income of £6 a week would be 2s. 7½d. If, however, they were to marry, the total income tax payable by them for the same joint income would be about 9s. 0½d. per week. In other words, a direct penalty of the sum of 6s. 5d. a week would be enforced on marriage. It is surely time that in this matter of the income tax the woman was reckoned as a personality independent of her husband.

Notes from Ireland.

(From Our Irish Correspondent.)

Sidelights on Irish Suffrage.—II.

The problems involved in the prevention and relief of distress in Ireland were fairly familiar even before war conditions forced the matter on even the most unthinking. As far back as 1833, a Royal Commission considered the widespread privation and misery in the country, and issued a Report embodying an elaborate scheme for, on the one hand, the development of the natural resources of the country, and, on the other, for the relief of the sick, aged, infirm, lunatics, and so on.

During the long interval between 1833 and 1913, two other Royal Commissions investigated conditions of relief in Ireland. These were the British Royal Commission of 1909, and the Irish Viceregal Commission of 1906. Further, the accidental fall of a ruinous house in the Dublin slum area aroused public indignation to such an extent that yet another Commission sat to investigate housing conditions in Dublin, and stated in its Report, amongst other matters, that no reform of housing conditions in Dublin would be satisfactory unless accompanied by a drastic reform of the Poor Law system. Then came the war, and the formation of many Relief Committees, official and otherwise. It would seem, therefore, that sufficient consideration has been bestowed on the problem to render effective reform possible.

Briefly, it may be said that the second recommendation of the 1833 Report has received far too much attention, and the first far too little. Many efforts have been made to provide for the sick, the aged, the infirm, and the unemployable: little has been done to develop the natural resources of the country, if among the most precious of these resources be included the children of the country. We have Boards to develop Fisheries, Harbours, Railways, and to improve roads, but no Ministry of Health, and no compulsory application of the Child Welfare grant. Relief of distress has cost time and money: prevention of distress has been persistently neglected.

For this latter purpose drastic reform in three directions is needed. We want in Ireland a system of education which shall be in a real sense national and compulsory; the present methods can only be described as efforts after both. We want housing reform which shall prevent the children being handicapped for life through ill-health. We want Poor-Law reform which will work in close touch with the education authorities, with the Labour Exchange, and with the Ministry of Health to bring the causes of poverty under our control. The woman standing at Grafton Street corner offering faded violets to the unheeding passer-by is beyond help in any real sense. The child of three clinging to her draggled skirt, barefoot, its scanty clothes soaked by the unceasing rain, may yet be saved. The girl of thirteen, on the other side of the street, thrusting newspapers on the unwilling hands of the men and women crowding into the trams, may be even yet helped to some occupation which does not lead to certain destitution. The stages of pauperism can be seen from the shivering barefoot child, the girl with the newspapers, the young woman who boasts she can make six shillings a day with her basket, to the starved and wrinkled beggar with her unsold blossoms.

What is the cost of the present system? Impossible to estimate. In one Union it costs 12s. 6d. to administer £1; in another the cost of maintenance averages 8s. 6d. per inmate per week. Suppose we had it all in one sum, the money given under the Poor Rate, that subscribed to the National Relief Fund, to the innumerable charities; what could we do with it?

Take the recommendations of the Viceregal Commission of 1906, noting first the statement that "the poverty of Ireland cannot be adequately dealt with by any Poor Relief Law . . . but by the development of the country's resources," always with the proviso, not made in the Report, that the human resources come first in importance.

First, the present Mixed Workhouse should be abolished. Those familiar with both the Majority and the Minority Reports of the British Commission will remember the same policy is advocated in them. What is a workhouse? To quote from Miss Susanne Day, who did brilliant work during her tenure of office as Poor Law Guardian in Cork, a workhouse is "not merely the dumping-ground for the waste human material of our cities and towns, but a home for imbeciles, a lying-in hospital for dissolute women, a winter resort for the casual labourer or summer beggar, a lodging-house for tramps and vagrants, and a hospital for the sick. . . . There, too, are the children, daily exposed to sights and sounds which cannot but have a deteriorating effect, and learning to look upon the workhouse as a home." Small wonder that the decent woman in the relief workroom tells me, "I pray God Almighty He may let me die before I go there. Sure, what good can come to the childher if they go to that place? There's not a soul but would cast it up against them all their lives long, the crathers! There's not a dog in our tribe, miss, ever went to such a place."

So the decent poor starve, and watch their children starve, and meanwhile the poor rate mounts and mounts for the upkeep of these places, which have been described as a disgrace to our Christian civilisation.

[*The first of these articles appeared on October 12th. We hope to publish others on this subject from time to time.*]

The Present Situation.

Last week was a time of anxiety for Irish Suffragists. For a day or so, the danger centre shifted to Ulster. It looked as if the redistribution proposals, always urged by Ulster Unionists as an indispensable part of any fair electoral readjustment in Ireland, might really delay the application of the Bill to Ireland. It certainly seemed a very unreal proposal. Redistribution of how many seats, and for what Parliament? What purpose in redistribution schemes dealing with the present Irish representation of Westminster, when the whole question of the constitution of the country was in the melting-pot? Is there to be a new Parliament, and what will be the number of its members? Will there be Irish M.P.s at Westminster, and in what number? Or will nothing at all be done, and things go on as they are, in which event one wonders vaguely and frivolously how long the constitution of any country, even Ireland, can survive immersion in a melting-pot.

Take another aspect of the matter. Think of the men of the Ulster Division, of the Irish Rifles, of the Connaught Rangers, of all the other regiments who have upheld the tradition of Irish heroism in the field. Are these men to lose their votes, and the stay-at-homes, whether in Ulster or elsewhere, to have the settlement of all the urgent questions awaiting us in this country? We are familiar with the old argument, somewhat out of fashion now, that women cannot fight, therefore should not vote, but delay in the application of the Bill to Ireland would involve the disfranchisement of the men who have fought, and have done so of their own free will, without conscription. To use the arguments of a distracted Suffragist at one moment during the past week, "You mean that the Irishmen who have died at the Front are not to be allowed to come home and vote!" It was with real thankfulness that we saw Captain O'Neill and Mr. Scanlan using these arguments from their respective points of view—Unionist and Nationalist—especially as in each case the injustice to Irishwomen was included in the question.

The danger now appears to be over. Surely, no further suggestion involving delay in the application of the Bill to Ireland can be brought forward. Such action would give too good a handle to Sinn Fein. As far as can be ascertained, the definite scheme of redistribution is to await the findings of the Convention, and these findings, one would imagine, must accept an electoral basis at least as democratic as that obtaining in Great Britain. Any delay in the application of the Bill to Ireland, even on the plea that so the disfranchisement of small constituencies could be avoided, would certainly be playing into the hands of the revolutionary party, since the disfranchisement involved in industrial centres would be serious. To quote a friend who follows politics with the utmost closeness, "The dear Lady help them and the Lord pity them if they be after doing the like of that!"

Dora Mellone.

Some New Occupations for Women.

V. OPTICAL LENS-MAKING.

Everyone knows that the war has created many new openings for women. Among them is the making of lenses and prisms, and other processes connected with the manufacture of the optical instruments so largely required by the men at the Front. Hitherto, optical instruments made in Germany have had the best reputation, and the names of Zeiss, Goerz, and others were guarantees of high-class and accurate workmanship. It is to be hoped, however, that with efficient organisation, British firms will soon make it unnecessary for us to go abroad for the best instruments.

Success in the processes connected with glassware depends largely on deftness of touch on the part of the worker, and it is here that woman's dexterity finds a profitable and useful employment. Let us imagine ourselves in a bright, airy, and cheerful workshop, where twenty light-hearted girls are busy at their lathe-heads. What is it that they are engaged on? These circular pieces of plain glass, about the size of half-a-crown, have just left the "shanking" room where the original sheet of glass has been cut up into small squares, each one of which is then converted into a disc ready for the next process of "malleting."

To one side of the glass disc is affixed a dab of pitch, forming a tiny handle or mallet which enables the worker to manipulate the lens in a tool revolving on the lathe-head. The lenses, now ready for action, must be "roughed." To understand this process you should notice that each girl is working at her lathe-head with emery and water, and that with repeated applications her busy fingers are shaping the plain glass disc to the curve of the revolving tool. Here care is required to ensure that from the surface of the embryo lens all holes made by a previous coarser emery are as far as possible removed.

The lens is now ready for the next step, known as "smoothing." By this process, as the name implies, it is still further worked down by finer emeries, until the surface is practically free from holes. If the work has been done well up to this point the surface of the lens will now look black. We all know the glass marble in a lemonade bottle. Imagine this marble cut into two, with a dab of pitch on the flat side of one-half of it—the curved side looking black—and you have a rough picture of the lens as it appears before it passes to the next stage of "polishing."

It is in polishing that the worker needs to be specially careful, because by a single clumsy stroke the lens might be spoilt. It is treated with application of rouge and water on a bed of pitch until its curved surface attains a brilliant polish.

It is time now to examine the lens before proceeding to the final processes of "centreing," "edging," and "balsaming," and it is here that a student of optics finds a practical application of the phenomenon known as "Newton's rings." By placing the lens in close contact with a completed specimen known to be perfectly accurate, and therefore described as a "test-plate," the worker is able to see whether or not her work is good. A well-made lens under this test will exhibit one uniform colour, whereas an imperfectly-constructed lens will display a variety of colours arranged rather like the ripples on a pool after a stone has been thrown in, or like the rings on a bull's-eye target. It is at this point that the pitch mallet is knocked off a satisfactory lens, which is then washed clean in paraffin.

It can easily be understood that continual tests of this or similar kinds must be applied to the lens throughout its construction, and, of course, the more skilful the worker the fewer defects will be found when the tests are made. Not only must the finished lens have its surface properly curved, but the surface itself must possess a certain degree of polish; and this, again, is tested much in the same way as the oculist examines the eye of a patient in a dark-room. The lens is viewed obliquely through a magnifying glass in a room where only yellow or artificial light is used, the object being to detect whether any light is "scattered," as it would be if the surface were not perfectly smooth.

Two or three further operations remain before the lens is completed. It has to be "centred" and "edged," and sometimes two particular lenses have to be joined together by balsam. It is a little difficult, without digressing into the theory of optics to explain accurately the process of "centreing." It can best be understood as a method of adjusting the lens, so that its centre is in exactly the right spot, or, in technical language, "so that the optical and geometrical centres coincide."

The lens is now complete except for the final process of "edging," which, as the name implies, means that the rough edges are made smooth by the use of emery and water in the same way as the surface was "smoothed." It is sometimes necessary to use one lens in conjunction with another. To effect this the corresponding surfaces of the two lenses are smeared with balsam, stuck together, and then baked in an oven until the balsam is quite clear and firm. This is the kind of lens commonly seen in the eye-pieces of opera-glasses.

We have now traced the life of the lens "from the cradle to the grave," but as all good work depends on the ability of the worker, it remains to add one or two words about the conditions of labour in this industry. Naturally, a newly built and scientifically equipped factory will have much pleasanter workshops than those in the older and smaller optical firms. If a girl is not robust, she may find the work too strenuous, for it needs close and unbroken concentration. In particular, weak-sighted workers would find the close attention involved in testing the lenses a great strain.

The hours worked in the factories and workshops vary from eight to ten a day, with one half-day in the week free. It is obvious that special training is needed to equip a worker with the knowledge and skill this work requires. Training schools have therefore been organised to provide young women with the necessary instruction. This is no mere "blind alley" employment, but one which not only makes the worker useful to the common cause of the country, but also equips her with an occupation which will stand her in good stead in the struggle for existence, both during and after the war.

Candidates are trained for this work at the Optical Training School of the Northampton Polytechnic (under the Ministry of Munitions). The training is paid for by the Ministry, and lasts from six to twenty weeks, during which time candidates receive a weekly grant of 10s. After twenty weeks' training, a minimum of £1 a week is paid by the employer, and after twenty-four weeks, 25s. It is considered that after six months from the commencement of their training, students "ought to be capable of earning 7d. an hour."

The prospects of Acetylene Welders compare very favourably with these terms, as a glance at the table given below will show. It is illuminating to reflect that the Acetylene Welders have an active Union, while the women optical lens workers have not yet been able to effect such a combination.

OPTICAL WORKERS.		ACETYLENE WELDERS.	
1 week to 20 weeks	10s. grant per week.	1 week to 4 weeks	Maintenance grant given when necessary during training. Start work at 8d. an hour—i.e., 30s. minimum. Gradually rising by equal monthly increases to men's minimum rate at end of 3 months' work—i.e., £2 10s. to £3 per week.
20 weeks to 24 weeks	20s. per week.	4 weeks to 3 months	
24 weeks to 26 weeks	25s. per week.		
After 6 months, "ought to be capable of earning 7d. an hour."		After that, rise according to ability on the same terms as men.	

[Articles in this series appeared on September 14th (Draughtsmanship for Women), September 21st (Dental Mechanics), September 28th (Industrial Chemistry), and October 5th (Analytical Chemistry). Particulars of training for these and other occupations can be obtained from Women's Service Bureau, London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.]

Women on the Railways. N.B.!

Do you understand that women are steadily replacing men upon the railways?

Do you understand that women are being admitted to the railway trade unions?

Do you understand that those trade unions, and in particular the N.U.R., are treating women with the most conspicuous fairness, and that still the terms of women's railway work remain an urgent Labour question?

In 1914, labour on the railways was in a fair way to become blackleg proof. Roughly, three-quarters of the total number of British railway employees were organised either in the National Union of Railwaymen or in the Society of Amalgamated Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. Women were not included, because their labour was negligible. At the beginning of the war it formed 2 per cent. of the total labour on the railways.

Early in 1915 the number of women railway employees began to increase. The N.U.R. grew alarmed. It saw railway labour in the hands of a class outside the Union—a class unorganised, at the mercy of the employer; a class of potential blacklegs. It had no choice but to admit them to its chosen company. At the same time, it was bound to uphold the interests of its old members who had joined the Army, relying on the Union to protect their industrial position. That is to say, it was bound to enforce the provisions of the industrial truce made with the Government at the beginning of the war. So, in admitting women, it expressly stipulated that their admission should in no way prejudice the re-employment of men on the disbanding of the Forces. Officially, it viewed women's employment as temporary.

Actually the N.U.R., like everyone else, recognised that in all industry women's labour had come to stay. The best it could do for its absent members was to place women on an equally good industrial footing with men, so that after the war they might not be in a position to undersell men's labour. And this was the policy it adopted—fair to the man on service, and equally fair to the woman in his place. For the position of the underseller is as disadvantageous to him or her as the position of the undersold.

The N.U.R. treated its women members as members, not as women, nor yet as man-substitutes. It tried to secure for women and men the same industrial footing, so that any competition for work between members of the Union should be a fair competition of efficiency, not a false competition of sex.

It needed the threat of a breach of the truce to win a promise that women should be assured the same minimum rate as men. And when granted, the promise did not amount to much. For the employer soon found an opportunity to differentiate between men's and women's labour, and where is there equality of wage when there is differentiation of war bonus?

The war bonus raised two problems which the N.U.R. had to face. It had first to secure the conversion of the bonus to war-wages, so that holiday and overtime pay might be reckoned upon it. This it succeeded in doing for men and—more slowly—for women working actually on the railway. Women in the railway shops still have extra pay calculated on the flat rate, as distinct from the flat rate plus bonus. The practical effect is not serious, as the majority of women in the shops come under the quite distinct munitions regulations. Still, the principle is at fault. The second problem was this. When women's war bonus was converted to war wages, the differentiation in bonus became even more serious. It was now glaringly apparent that the rate of women's pay was far lower than men's. The N.U.R. laid a protest before the Great Western Railway, but when the question was referred for arbitration, the decision went against the Union.

So the matter stands. With every new increase in bonus or war-wages, some small distinction is drawn between men and women. And the sum total of the distinctions is mounting up. The woman is receiving wages much below the man's, and is unwillingly being forced to undersell his labour. The employer is left one leg to stand on, and pleads that he is paying all his employees the same flat-rate. The hands of the N.U.R. are tied by the Industrial Truce, and the decision has already once been given against it.

Yes, it looks ugly written down.

Still, facts are facts, and if they do not provide a triumphant solution of the problem, they have at least the merit of showing that the problem exists. Inez M. Ferguson.

OUR READERS' HUT AT COVENTRY.

The Hut erected at Coventry by our readers' subscriptions is being greatly appreciated, and we are sure they would be well content if they could visit it during its busy time and see the work that is going on. Apart from the Club work, which is a very great need in the town, there is a constant demand for the cubicles, of which there are eight, including the matron's. These are solely for the use of girls arriving too late at night to find rooms. Sometimes there are so many girls urgently needing accommodation that two have to sleep in each bed. Girls arrive frightened, homesick, and very tired, and it must be a great help to them to receive the warm welcome and protection that awaits them at The Common Cause Hut, while many must be saved from danger by finding refuge there. Sometimes girls arrive as late as nine or ten o'clock, and if there is not room for them they are taken to rooms close by.

The following is an extract from a letter written by one of the Club members:—

"Dorothy, Annie, and myself have been to the Park Road Recreation Club for Girls. It is a lovely place with a rest room and canteens where girls may have cups of coffee, tea, or cocoa, with home-made cake for a mere trifle. They have dances so many nights a week, and each girl is allowed to take a young gentleman on Wednesday night only, they sing hymns and have sacred solos on Sundays."

The Club is full almost every night, and the members are organising a concert to raise funds for the

"COMMON CAUSE" HUT FOR FRANCE.

The fund for this has now reached the sum of £780. We now only need £120 to complete the total needed to build and equip the Hut and maintain it for the first six months. We are anxious to collect the remainder as soon as possible, in order to make the Hut a Christmas present to British women and girls working in France. So

Please send your donation as soon as possible.

We gratefully acknowledge the following sums:—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	766	1	6
Mr. and Mrs. Davidson		5	0
Pangbourne W.S.S. (collection at Annual Meeting)		12	10
Miss Boxall, per Pangbourne W.S.S.		1	0
Mrs. C. Jones, per Pangbourne W.S.S.	1	0	0
Miss B. M. Page		5	0
Mrs. Pidduck	1	0	0
Miss J. L. Young	1	0	0
Miss Rathbone	5	0	0
Mrs. Francis Storrs	1	1	0
Miss Crease		10	0
Mrs. Flügel	2	0	0
Miss D. W. Coleman		5	0
Maidstone W.S.S.		10	6
"E. C. B."		10	0
	£780	1	10

Donations should be sent to The Editor, The Common Cause, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN NEW YORK STATE.

Twice approved by both Houses of the Legislature, then ratified by a State Referendum—no easy achievement for any cause, even with every argument of logic and sentiment to back it. Public interest is apt to wane; support is apt to flag. Yet this is the sanction which New York State demands for every Constitutional Amendment before it can become law, and this is the sanction which Women's Suffrage is to-day winning in New York.

There is to be a Referendum taken for New York next month on Women's Suffrage. If its verdict is favourable, Women's Suffrage becomes law. Every New York citizen is to give his vote, and "every" means not only the man at home, but the man abroad on service.

Now, it is quite probable that the New York soldier, faced with the difficulty of making his decision, will ask the opinion of the women he is meeting just now. And if he is in England, these women will be Englishwomen. Wherefore, to work, women of England, and study the New York Suffrage situation!

In 1915, a Referendum on Women's Suffrage was taken in New York. The verdict was unfavourable, but over 500,000 Suffrage votes were polled. That is to say, that Women's Suffrage, if it meant to be victorious, must win the votes of one-sixth more of the electorate.

The usual Suffragist method of work in New York was to carry on an active Suffrage campaign at the time of the election of the Senate, and to induce Senators to stand for the resubmission of a Women's Suffrage Amendment. In 1915 this was impossible. The world was occupied by other matters than politics.

So it happened that when the Referendum went against Women's Suffrage, no preparations had been made for introducing an Amendment into the Assembly. To introduce an Amendment there was a sporting chance which Suffrage took. The opponents of Suffrage made little effort to prevent the Amendment being moved, feeling that it would be easier to defeat it in Assembly than at another Referendum of the State.

The Amendment was not defeated. It passed both Houses in 1915, and again in 1916 by overwhelming majorities—124 to 10 in the Lower House, 39 to 7 in the Upper. It received the unanimous support of the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Now there is left the final test. Women's Suffrage must again be submitted to the State vote, and the Referendum is to be taken next month. Here is the chance for England on the eve of suffrage victory to lend a hand to New York, also on the eve of suffrage victory. The soldiers of New York State who are now in England have perhaps forgotten what the success of suffrage means to their womenfolk. England can remind them. And if one thing is bound to make an impression, it is the realisation that not only the women of one State or nation are crying out for political recognition, but the women of all States and all nations—the women of the world.

I. M. F.

Some New Novels by Women Writers.

Fields of the Fatherless. By Jean Ray. (Collins, 6s. net.)

The history of an exceptionally sensitive and imaginative girl brought up in a family of Glasgow Irish people, "Fields of the Fatherless" gives a picture of life among the poorer working classes so vivid that one feels the author must have actually been through the experiences she relates. It is an appallingly drab and dreary picture that she gives. Overcrowding, underfeeding, drunkenness, coarseness, the spite and petty feuds of neighbours, the harshness of a tyrannical old man whose wife and daughters dare not presume to sit at table with him, occasional outings looked forward to with eagerness and then spoilt by vulgar quarrels or absurd, humiliating, little accidents—all these things are most realistically described. But sordid as it is, the story has its beautiful side and is told not without humour. The drunken, but otherwise highly respectable old grandparents have their redeeming points. There is real love and kindliness in the home, and traces of refinement—inherited perhaps from Irish peasant ancestry—cropping up here and there amid all the coarseness and violence.

From his Ulster ancestors, too, the grandfather must have inherited the puritanical strictness with which he rules his household, a harshness which has driven his eldest girl "to the bad," and from which her illegitimate daughter, little Jean, escapes to a life of even greater hardship than she has endured in the home where she has shared a tiny bedroom with two aunts, an uncle, and another male relation. With her mother's vivacity and keen longing for life and gaiety, Jean has also remarkable strengh of character, and an innate modesty and refinement that guard her from experiences that would have befallen most girls similarly placed. When material surroundings grow unbearable, she takes refuge in a beautiful dream world of her own.

Jean has a happy way of seeing the brighter side of things, and looks with most touching charity on the harshness of her relatives. They did not mean badly, she insists, but they did not understand. And, indeed, with all their faults the family somehow win our liking; they are so plucky and have so much honest pride and independence. Little kindnesses and warm affection atone for roughness, and if it had not been for the drinking habits of the grandparents, leading to violent scenes and gradual degradation, one feels that the family might have been very happy in spite of poverty.

The book stands quite apart from other stories of British working-class life, and there are touches that remind one of Barrie's "Window in Thrums." It has something of the quality of *Marie Claire*—the same stamp of genuineness, the same poignant appeal to brain and heart—though it does not equal the French girl's masterpiece in literary merit. Yet the style has an effectiveness of its own, the frequent lapses into Scottish idiom giving colour and variety to the rather bald English phrases, and the story holds one's interest throughout.

Summer. By Edith Wharton. (Macmillan. 6s. net.)

"Summer" is one of those long short stories which the French call "nouvelles." It cannot be described as slight, because it has the firmness of texture which is characteristic of the author's work, but nothing in it is elaborated. The characters are suggested with Miss Wharton's usual subtlety. Lawyer Royall is a daring conception, we are not sure whether he is absolutely convincing, but he would almost certainly be less convincing, if he were more elaborately described. The whole atmosphere of the book is to an English reader alien and remote. The heroine is a foundling child brought down from a kind of pariah settlement called "The Mountain," to a little New England town. But North Dormer and the people in it seem almost as far away from us as Charity's undesirable relations on the mountain. For an American reader, the contrast is probably much more accentuated, for us the whole book has an effect of strangeness, almost of unreality. But it is as brilliant as the illuminations on the lake that are so wonderfully described, and probably few living novelists could have compressed so much psychological suggestion into less than three hundred small pages of large print without producing any sense of effort, or any disproportion anywhere. Miss Wharton is more like the French than any other novelist who writes in English.

"Missing." By Mrs. Humphry Ward. (Collins. 6s. net.)

Mrs. Humphry Ward's latest book is a war novel on somewhat mechanical lines. The minor characters and minor incidents are fairly typical of a certain small section of English society and life during the last three years. The plot is mainly concerned with character, and it is just here that the book fails. The charm of the heroine lies solely in the attraction which intense weakness has for a certain type of masterful mind. If in the early chapters there seems to be something appealing in her helplessness and something pathetic in her absorbing love for her husband, she loses our respect when she allows herself to drift and almost to fall into the arms of another man. The elder sister dislikes the war, though in no way a pacifist; she is not happy in society, though desiring the social advantages of wealth; she is interested in "ologies," though far from being of the student type. It is a confusing picture, and the touch about the "ologies" seems to carry one back to the days when to be suspected of being a blue-stocking was fatal to a woman's social success. Both the men who love the frail heroine are drawn sympathetically, yet neither of them are specially interesting. The charm of the lovely Lake District, where the scene of action is placed, is a constant joy, and the easy flowing style carries the reader over many weak places, making "Missing" a readable and almost an interesting book

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Trade Unionism on the Railways. By G. D. H. Cole & R. Page Arnot. (Fabian Research Department; cloth, 2s. 6d., paper, 1s.)

"Trade Unionism on the Railways," is Mr. Cole's latest contribution to economic literature, written in conjunction with Mr. Page Arnot, as the second number of the Trade Union series. It is the history of the growth of Unionism on the Railways, sketched in outline before 1911, and treated in detail from 1911 till last year. It is a very careful and very clear exposition of the facts.

Now that women are a factor no longer negligible in the creation of industrial conditions, it is most important that they should understand the world into which they have entered. The labour world is permeated with the spirit of organisation. Women in industry are tending more and more to combine. Women are being admitted to men's Trade Unions.

It is useless and worse for women to organise without realising what organisations already exist, or enter existing organisations without realising their aims. Every industrial worker should understand the Unions within her industry, their history and their position.

Mr. Cole has made it easy for every woman connected with railway work to do so. Moreover, two of his most interesting chapters are devoted to a consideration of women's war-time work on the railways. Mr. Cole finds in the underpayment of women—in particular of women clerks—a serious menace to the employment of railway men after the war. Women are being reluctantly driven to undersell men's labour and are becoming a class of potential blacklegs.

Since Mr. Cole wrote, some aspects of women's railway work have changed, but changed so as to accentuate, not to alter the problem. In character it remains the same, a problem urgently demanding attention. "Trade Unionism on the Railways," will provide an excellent foundation for any constructive scheme of reform.

Correspondence.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

Madam,—Mothers' Pensions sound very attractive, but there are many arguments against the idea. For instance:—

(1) A mother and her child would be looked upon in the family as an economic asset.

(2) The pension would encourage unmarried mothers and lighten the responsibility of fatherhood; Judge Neil seems to think the latter a negligible quantity already, but men should be trained to be fathers and husbands, and made more responsible.

(3) The pension would tend to lower the great dignity attached to the carrying on of life, which is not a marketable commodity.

Widows' Pensions are different, because a widow has lost, through no fault of her own, that understood part of the marriage agreement that there should be co-operation in the creation of a home. The pension would save a widow from being obliged to go out to work to keep her family, and give her the chance to stay at home and look after them herself. She would also be prevented from contracting a second marriage, merely to enable her to do this.

With regard to State help to married people, it must be considered that people do not marry to please the State, but themselves or their families. Why, therefore, should the State help them to do what they prefer to do?

The Taxing of Bachelors, in the same way, seems unnecessary. The married man certainly receives no more pay for his work than the bachelor, and the size of his family does not affect his wages. When he marries, he does so, presumably, because he hopes to live a fuller and what seems to him a life more worth living than that of the bachelor. He knows he must spend his money in a different way.

These points, however, must be considered in conjunction with the following:—

(1) *All* should be paid on a higher scale for work done.

(2) Young men and girls should be encouraged to save in some systematic way, and, where possible, helped by their parents.

(3) There should be a wider and improved system of National Insurance, a limited number of working hours for everyone, and one day in the week of complete rest from work. E. Tindall Harris.

Madam,—I have just read Miss M. Royden's letter in your last issue. Does Miss Royden advocate that *all* women, from the peeress to the woman in the slums and *the mothers of the illegitimate children*, should receive an endowment from the State? If *one*, then *all*. But I object *in toto* to the scheme. An Octogenarian.

REPRISALS.

Madam,—With regard to the very difficult question of "Reprisals"—so-called—there are two points of view, one or other of which may be held; to take a little of each would appear to surround the views of a writer so doing with the species of mental fog that militates against clear thinking. We may decide that Germany, by sending over flying machines in the night to bombard London and any other open towns that can be come upon in the darkness, has adopted barbarous methods of warfare which dishonour her and must be her lasting disgrace. Or we may look on the matter differently. We may decide, with the writer in this week's Common Cause, that the idea of "non-combatants" is a little out of date—that we are all helping to wage the war and all have obligations laid upon us; and also that London, at any rate, is a centre for military stores and manufactures, as well as a great residential centre. We may likewise take the view, also put forward by "R" in The Common Cause, that the number of people hurt by these raids is negligible, and that the risk for Londoners is really infinitesimal.

If we take the first view, we ought to be utterly against adopting the like dishonourable methods. If we take the second view, we recognise that there are not really non-combatants in the towns of South Germany, any more than there are non-combatants in London, and that the same methods may be legitimately adopted by us to interfere with the warlike activities of Cologne and Frankfort as Germany finds valuable for interfering with ours. We may likewise argue that, as so few people are killed or hurt by such efforts, we have every right to try what the moral effect of the like nightly bombing may be when used upon the Rhine towns.

The reference to parents of "young airmen who may be missing" is surely quite unworthy of The Common Cause. Mary Lowndes.

[The argument of our contributor "R" was that reprisals cannot be justified on the score that they are necessary to protect women. If the distinction between combatants and non-combatants is unreal, then there is no reason that women should be specially protected (and no reason, we would add, why any complaint should be made when Germany directs her warfare against our civil population). If, however, the distinction is real and one that it is a dishonour to ignore, then no reason under the sun can justify us in imitating the dishonour of our enemies.—Acting Editor, Common Cause.]

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Delays are Dangerous.

The Government has yielded to the demand of the Irish Unionists that a redistribution scheme should be prepared for Ireland. As an alternative the Unionists asked that Ireland should be altogether excluded from the scope of the Representation of the People Bill. They admitted that it would be an evil for Ireland to be deprived of the benefits of electoral reform, but maintained that an alteration of the franchise without redistribution would be an intolerable injustice to the great communities of Belfast and other large centres of population.

The Government could not have consented to exclude Ireland from the Representation of the People Bill without flying in the face of the Speaker's Conference, which recommended that it should be included. On the subject of redistribution, however, the Conference made no recommendation. The great objection to the proposal is a practical one; it will delay the passage of the Bill. Redistribution Schedules, as we all know, take some time to prepare. Even if the Commissioners for Ireland do their work with all possible expedition, and at whatever stage of the Bill their reports are considered, the fact that this new piece of work has been undertaken at such a late stage is bound to cause some delay. Nor is it likely that any proposals that can be made for redistribution will be acceptable to all Irish members. If the Unionists are satisfied, the Nationalists will be dissatisfied. The discussion over the details of the proposals will therefore cause more delay.

All this could be borne, and would be borne, with patience if the result were to be any practical benefit to Ireland. But while the Commissioners are labouring over their schedules, the Convention at Dublin is labouring to remake the whole constitution of Ireland. It is bound to report soon. If it succeeds—as we all fervently hope it will—the groundwork of Irish representation will be changed. In the light of this fact the question of redistribution for that country would appear to be academic. Is it worth while to delay the Reform Bill for which the whole democracy of the United Kingdom is so eagerly waiting for the sake of an academic question? We think not.

Impatient as we are of the delay, however, we cannot believe that the Government will suffer it to be a long one. Only the other day the Prime Minister assured a deputation of the Labour Party that he had the rapid passage of the Bill very much at heart. As we have before pointed out, it is essential for the Government itself that the delays should be as few as possible. A general election may be necessary at any moment, and a general election on the old register is unthinkable. The Representation of the People Bill must go through, and it must go through quickly. We believe that the Government sees this as plainly as we do, but we regret that it has consented, even for a moment, to a course of action which, if it has any real meaning or effect at all, seems likely to result in some postponement of the desired end.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Women and the Local Government Franchise.

By the Rt. Hon. F. D. Acland, M.P.

During the Committee stage of the Representation of the People Bill the question arose of securing that married women should have votes in Local Government elections. The Government, through Sir George Cave, expressed their willingness to consider an amendment with this object when the Bill came up on Report, provided that sufficient public support was forthcoming. Since then the following bodies, among others, have passed resolutions in favour of such an amendment :—

The National Union of Women Workers, the British Women's Temperance Association, the National Women's Labour League, the National Council for Adult Suffrage, the Women's Local Government Society, the Women's Municipal Party, the Co-operative Society's Conference, many Trade Unions, many local branches of the N.U.W.W., the Women's Co-operative Guild and the Federation of University Women, besides of course, Suffrage Societies and a very large number of Women Citizens' Associations.

It is also significant of the general agreement that such prominent anti-Suffragists in the House of Commons as Mr. Arnold Ward and Mr. MacCallum Scott are in favour of the change.

As the Bill stands, all women on the Local Government register (about a million and a quarter) will become entitled to a Parliamentary vote; *but* the five million or so of married women who also will have the Parliamentary franchise will not have the right to vote for Local Government candidates. Such a position is palpably indefensible; yet it may be as well to consider briefly some of the objections raised to the grant of the local franchise to married women.

It is urged that the local authorities represent the ratepayers, and that the married man, not his wife, is the responsible occupier of the premises for which he pays rates. This is true; yet it is a fact that the actual burden of rate-paying falls upon the mother of the family more directly than upon the father—at any rate, in respect of all those houses and tenements (the vast majority) where the rates are paid as part of the rent. The husband, if he is the sole wage-earner, generally hands over to his wife a fixed proportion of his wage, out of which she has to find rent, food, light, &c., for the family. If rates go up, and with them cottage rents, it is the wife who will be primarily conscious of the change; she will be as much affected as the single woman or widow paying rent for a similar cottage. Moreover, in very many families the husband and wife are both wage-earners. And in any case, even though the wife's work in the home receives no money return, it is none the less a substantial contribution to the economic position of the family.

Again, it is sometimes argued that as the present women Local Government electors have not shown much interest or intelligent opinion in casting their votes, so neither will the married women. Against this it must be said that the section of women who up to now have had a say in Local Government have been, on the whole, a much isolated section; and also it is more difficult to consolidate opinion among a few women when the mass of women are left out, than it would be if the married women were added to the local electorate. In a given street, if only the women, say at Number 2 and Number 60, have votes and all the women in between have no vote, the voters fail to come into touch with each other as they would do if the normal thing was for the chief woman in *every* house, as well as the male head of it, to have a local vote. Moreover, many of the matters which are more and more being entrusted to the Local Government authorities affect married women more than unmarried, and the burden of rates affects both equally; but the Local Councils policy and temper on questions of housing, sanitation, pure milk supply, health, and education is of more vital concern to the normal mother with an increasing family than to the spinster, or even to the widow with children. The British constitution is full of anomalies, but would it not be too glaring an anomaly if five out of the six million women who are now to have a voice in choosing men to make the laws should have no voice in choosing men and women whose job it is to carry out those laws locally?

Finally, we must never overlook the paradox that freedom and responsibility are the only schools in which freedom and responsibility can be learnt. No class of people can be educated up to intelligent action as citizens except by practice of such actions. The good influence on public life which we foresee as the result of women's emancipation will only be realised by degrees as women learn the meaning of political power, as their will awakes to it, and they learn the art of using it. Therefore the practice in voting which women would have in local elections whose results concern them so obviously, and where the working of a general election can be seen, as it were, in miniature, would be of great value in their education. No Suffragist denies that the great mass of new women electors will need education, and it is perhaps chiefly on this count that we so earnestly desire that they should take their proper share in matters of Local Government.

Suffragists were warned that to upset the compromise arrived at by the Speaker's Conference would be to endanger the passing of the Bill; but on this point the Government are willing to accept an amendment, as was said above, provided the consensus of public opinion is in favour of it. Therefore, any resolution in favour of an amendment extending the Local Government franchise to all women who have the Parliamentary franchise sent up during the next few days to the Home Secretary will be a real help to those of us in the House of Commons who are trying to secure that such an amendment shall be incorporated in the Bill.

Child Pensions.

The cry which is being raised on all sides that the children of the nation are its greatest asset is no new one. For years, a minority of thinking people have been "as a voice crying in the wilderness." It has taken a gigantic European war to arouse the majority of people to realise the need for preserving the children of the nation, and then only in order that the nation may waste them even more effectively than previously. So long as there was plenty of material for cheap labour, this majority did not worry about infantile mortality or child welfare; it is only when war threatens to make a "corner" in cheap labour, and the fact is brought home to them of the value of human life for destructive purposes, that they demand it should be preserved in its infancy. But this was not the vision which the reformers had before them when they preached the value of child life, and it is to realise their vision that I advocate pensions for children rather than the endowment of motherhood.

It is a reflection upon this country that not only is it lacking in ideas, but it will not, except after much deliberation, accept any ideas which may be offered. People who lack ideas seldom take risks, and the same applies to nations. If any nation would take the risk of saving its children in a bold manner, instead of tinkering with the subject, that nation would find itself in so superior a position that not all the scientific instruments of war could stand against it.

Children are a nation's capital, and it is a well-known fact that to build up a good business, capital is needed, and has to be used with a certain amount of risk. We should call the man a fool who kept his capital locked up, because he was afraid to use it, but the man who emptied it into sewers and threw it on dust-heaps we should put into a lunatic asylum—but that is what we have done with our human capital.

Pensions for mothers in America were instituted to meet a particular evil, which struck a man of imagination so forcibly that he could not rest until he had done something to mitigate that evil. To institute such a system in England when we know the evil goes so much further would only be playing with the problem. It may appear to some that the endowment of motherhood and children's pensions are the same; but there is a very distinct difference—the endowment of motherhood presupposes that all mothers are going to be good, otherwise the child suffers; whereas in child pensions, it is the child who is pensioned, no matter what kind of parents it has.

It is the right of every child to demand that it should be properly equipped before being asked to perform its part in the world's work, and only when it has been so equipped have we the right to punish it for not performing that work. We begin at the wrong end when we maintain reformatories, prisons, workhouses, and asylums—let us try beginning at the other end, for a change, and endeavour to make good citizens, instead of locking up bad ones.

The question of how it is to be done is not difficult; we have already most of the machinery—it requires adapting. The war has taught us that money can be found if sufficient return is offered, and this would be a sound investment. There would be no need to set up any extra bodies to undertake the work. The War Pensions Committee is already dealing with an enormous number of families; it could extend its operations to cover all the children of the Kingdom, and every mother, or guardian, of a child would collect the pension from the post office in the ordinary way.

We are promised a Ministry of Health which will deal with Health from the cradle to the grave. Under its administrations notice would be given before birth if necessary. I do not suggest that every mother should be compelled to give notice when she was expecting a child, but the ante-natal centres would be there should she need advice and help. In this way the child would have every chance of being born healthy.

Upon the birth of the child, which is already notifiable under the Notification of Births Act, a Health Visitor would be sent to take particulars of the case. Maternity and child welfare centres are being set up all over the country; it would be necessary to make the system more uniform, so that even the remotest parts had a centre, and not leave them, as they are at present, scattered in a haphazard fashion, according to the intelligence of the Medical Officer, or the progressive spirit of the local people.

Under the Education Bill, there is a promise of Nursery Schools. Crèches are already in existence for mothers who are working. The mother should have the right to say whether she would prefer to care for her baby herself, or to pay a more capable and better trained person to do so. Provided there is a surety of income, one cannot imagine any mother deputing to another the care of her baby for the first three months of its life, although one has seen in *The Times* advertisements for "a nurse to take charge of a baby from the month." The decision as to whether it would go to a *crèche* and nursery school would rest with the mother so long as the child was healthy and well cared for. There is no one so fatuous as to think that a system of child pensions would necessitate the tearing a child from its mother's arms in order that it might be brought up in an institution. But there are women who make very much better mothers when they are not in constant attendance upon their children. It is weak sentimentality to talk of a mother's right to her child, if it means that the child is suffering from that "right." The fact that two parents have produced a child does not give them the right to destroy it, either mentally, morally, or physically. The mother's right to the child holds only so long as it is healthy, happy, and well cared for, using these terms in their widest sense. Should it be proved that the child was being neglected, then would come the time to take action, and, if necessary, remove it from its surroundings—not, as we tend to do now, leave the child in the bad surroundings and take the pension away from the mother.

The Elementary School would follow the Nursery School, where school dinners would be provided for every child, and served in a decent human fashion—table manners would be a part of education. A school uniform would be advantageous; it would inculcate personal hygiene, and do away with the superfluous clothing which is apt to be worn at present, under the mistaken notion of giving extra warmth. After all, school uniforms are "de rigueur" in many of the High Schools; why not follow their example? The uniform and the middle-day meal would be allowed for in the maintenance grant.

At fourteen years of age would come the secondary school, and later, at sixteen or eighteen, the technical school or university. Whatever trade or profession the child was to follow, adequate training should be given. There is no work so unimportant that it cannot be done better when intelligence is brought to bear upon it, and there is some work which, when intelligence is brought to bear upon it, will not be done at all. Education in its widest sense should form the basis of occupational training, and the recreative side should have due attention.

The question of inspectorship is one which need not frighten the most timid. It would not add one inspector to the number we have already, and by co-ordinating all parts of the machinery might possibly lessen it. The school dinners and medical service would be available for every child, and a great deal of money and time would be saved by doing away with the present system of trying to recover miserable little sums of money charged to parents who are considered rich enough to pay for these services, and who either cannot afford, or do not intend to do so.

The old, old cry of "Think of the responsibility of the parents," is also a bogey which may be "laid." You cannot take from people what they have never possessed, and the parents who do feel a high sense of responsibility towards their children will be in no danger. Anyhow, we ought not to lose the substance of the scheme by shying at shadows.

We are threatened after the war with the prospect of unemployment and difficulties of demobilisation. It might be one of the solutions to think seriously about the question of child-labour, and what it might entail to the adult worker if it was removed from the labour market. There will be a mass of juveniles whom we have used in this game of war, and for whom there has been no sort of training and very little education. They will constitute a problem and a menace which, so far, we do not seem to have made any provision for—the Education Bill offers no adequate solution. Are we going to allow another generation to grow up under the same conditions?

In the world we are to have after this war, if we are to widen our vision, we shall have need for the services of all kinds of brains and every shade of thought. In order to get the best results, we must allow the young shoots opportunity and time to develop.

It must be understood that child pensions will not be limited to one class; they are the right of every child. We are apt to think only in terms of poverty when we speak of lack of opportunity and narrow surroundings. Many children suffer because their parents, though far above the poverty line, and to the average mind worthy of responsibility, have an absence of ideas and want of vision in their relation to them. The absolute dependence of mother and children upon the father is the cause of many tragedies. Children cannot grow to proper proportions if they are kept in a narrow and limited atmosphere—they do grow, but in an abnormal way, shooting out in the wrong direction to where they think they see a light—if they mistake a rushlight for the sun, it is because we, as a nation, have failed to teach them to know the true light when they see it.

In the scheme of reconstruction which is to come, women are to be given new powers and responsibilities—it is for them to use those powers and responsibilities in the right way. It will not be enough to begin where men began. In the light of past experience, women know the difficulties of rearing children, and it is to them we must look for future wisdom in this matter. If we are in earnest when we talk of a lasting Peace, we must see to it that we develop the right sort of people to ensure it.

Lilian Dawson.

[*The following articles on the subject of pensions for mothers or for children have already been published in* The Common Cause: —"*The State, the Mother, and the Child*," *by M. Thoday, August 24th*; "*The State Endowment of Maternity*," *by Mary Stocks, September 21st and September 28th*; "*State Endowment of Motherhood*," *by A. Maude Royden, October 10th.*

Next week we hope to publish an article by the Countess of Selborne entitled "*Do not make the Poor Widows Wait.*"

The Common Cause *takes no responsibility for the opinions expressed in these articles but gives space for the subject to be thoroughly discussed.*]

IN MEMORIAM.

Miss Harriet Morant Jones.

We regret to announce the death, on October 21st, of Miss Harriet Morant Jones, the first Headmistress of Notting Hill High School, and one of the pioneers in obtaining a higher standard of secondary education for girls. Miss Jones began her educational work by opening a school for girls in Guernsey, and in 1873 she commenced the great work of her life, the organisation of the Notting Hill High School, the second school opened by the Girls' Public Day School Trust. She was one of the first members of the Association of Headmistresses founded by Miss Buss in 1874, and was its President in the years 1897 and 1898. She was greatly interested in the training of teachers, especially in connection with the Maria Grey Training College, of whose Council she was a member from its early days.

DIVORCE LAW REFORM.

The Committee which has been pressing on the Government the immediate need for reform of our divorce law met on Monday at the House of Commons, and are preparing to send a deputation to the Prime Minister with a draft of the Bill which they wish the Government to introduce at an early date. It was also decided to call a meeting of all the signatories in favour of the Committee's Bill. The chief clause of the Bill provides that continuous separation between husband and wife for three years, whether by mutual agreement or any other reason, shall be a ground for divorce.

The readers of "The Common Cause" have done a great thing

Since our last appeal, subscriptions have been rolling in, and we are pleased to announce that we have already received sufficient to provide the whole cost of BUILDING and EQUIPPING "The Common Cause" Hut for France.

WE have lost no time. Immediately the money was assured, the work was put in hand and THE HUT IS NOW IN COURSE OF ERECTION.

When the brave girls of the Women's Auxiliary Army arrive in France, the happiest welcome they can have is at a Y.W.C.A. Hut, where they can get rest and refreshment and the companionship of their own countrywomen.

Y.W.C.A.

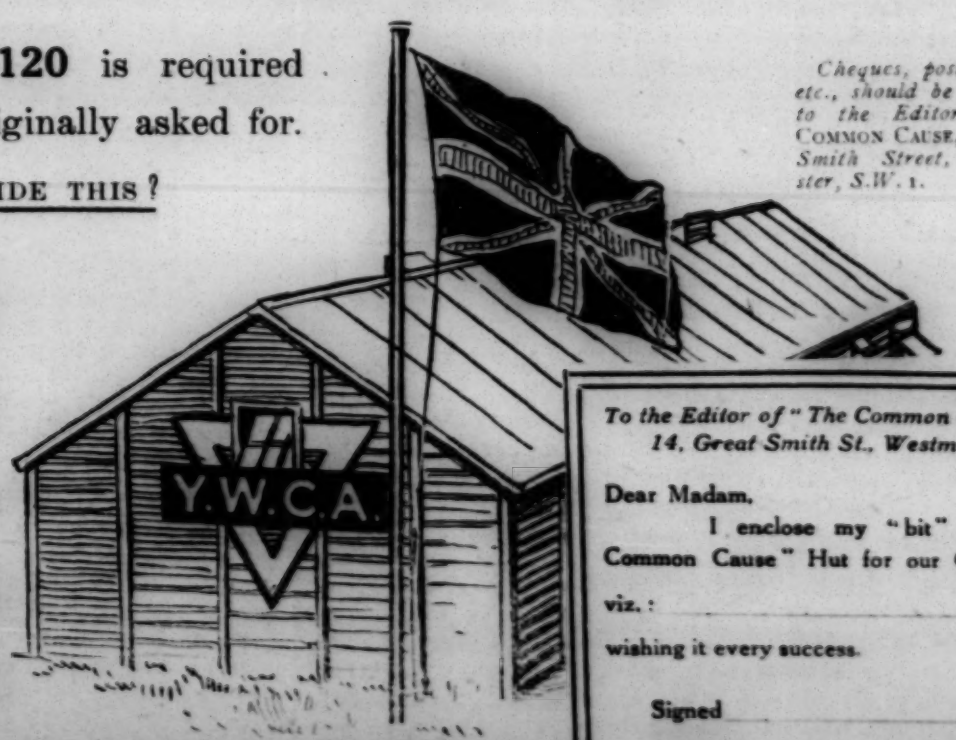
All that now remains is to provide the balance needed to MAINTAIN the hut

To insure the Hut being in full working order when the winter frosts and snow are upon us, the balance of the money should be sent in AT ONCE.

Actually only about **£120** is required to complete the **£900** originally asked for.

WHO WILL HELP TO PROVIDE THIS?

Surely YOU would like to lend a hand in this great work!



Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be addressed to the Editor of THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, *Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.* 1.

To the Editor of "The Common Cause," 14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

I enclose my "bit" towards "The Common Cause" Hut for our Girls in France, viz.: _____

wishing it every success.

Signed _____

Address _____

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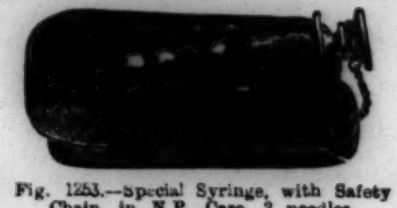

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss Violet Eustace. Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary) Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Auerbach. *Secretary:* Miss Edith Stopford.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Telegraphic Address—Voiceless 'phone, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

1917 Franchise Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	1,778	16	1
Olton W.S.S.	1	0	0
Pangbourne W.S.S....	1	1	0
Miss Belle Small		3	0
Bournemouth W.S.S.	3	2	6
Miss E. R. Murray (Queen's Hall Meeting)		10	0
Mrs. Norman McLehose	1	1	0
Bristol W.S.S.	1	11	6
Tiverton W.S.S.	2	0	1
Redhill, Reigate and District W.S.S.	5	0	0
	£1,794	5	2

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916 ...	1,425	12	0
Received from September 25th to October 20th, 1917:—			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Miss Bertha Mason	1	0	0
Mrs. White Birch	1	0	0
Miss E. Maybury		5	0
Miss Belle Small		5	0
Mrs. Ernest Harrington... ...		5	0
Mrs. Eleanor Wilkinson		10	0
Mrs. Norman McLehose	1	1	0
Miss Enid M. Dinnis		1	0
Miss Ethel Mathieson	1	0	0
S. H.		10	0
Mrs. William Marshall	1	1	0
Mrs. Trotter		10	0
Miss G. A. Hardwick		1	0
Miss R. Hovey (2nd instal.) ...	50	0	0
Mrs. L. R. Bazeley...		2	6
Mrs. Auerbach	25	0	0
The Lady Laura Ridding ...	1	1	0
AFFILIATION FEES.			
Ardrossan and Saltcoats W.S.S.		12	6
Redditch W.S.S.		6	6
N.-W. Wilts W.S.S....		5	0
Brora W.S.S.		5	0
Rochdale W.S.S.	1	7	3
DONATIONS.			
Oxon, Berks, and Bucks Fed....		10	0
	£1,512	10	9

IMPORTANT.

Postal Orders should be crossed and filled in N.U.W.S.S. Treasury Notes should be treated like coins, and always registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Please address letters containing money to the Secretary or to Mrs. Auerbach, or Miss Sterling, by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	12,085	14	6
Huddersfield W.S.S.	25	0	0
Mrs. Charles Tiffany (monthly donation)	5	4	2
Miss Alice Bolton (3 months)...	1	10	0
	£12,117	8	8

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

The Information Bureau.

The N.U. Information Bureau makes every effort to send prompt and thorough replies to enquiries on all kinds of subjects. It is specially valuable to Suffrage speakers and writers.

Annual subscripton, 1 guinea

Single enquiries: to Secretaries of N.U. Societies, 6d.; to individuals or societies not affiliated to the N.U., 1s.

Miss Jetley wishes to thank those Secretaries of Societies who have replied so promptly and fully to her enquiries respecting the representation of women on Food Control Committees and the formation of Women Citizens' Associations.

Literature Department.

Those of our members who have purchased their copy of the Oxford Essays in Feminism: "The Making of Women" will probably have noticed an inaccuracy in the chapter on "Women Enfranchised." In speaking of the qualifications under the Reform Bill, Mr. Rooper says, "it excludes not only unmarried women. . . ." While granting that the majority of unmarried women will remain unenfranchised, it is due to our readers to point out that unmarried women over thirty who are occupiers, or lodgers in unfurnished rooms to the value of £10, will be entitled to the Parliamentary and Local Government Franchise. We understand that this error will be corrected in subsequent editions of the book.

We would remind our Societies of the excellent series of leaflets which was published earlier in the year on "Women Workers and Women's Votes." These deal with every branch of women's service, from professional women to women in agriculture and industry. The full set of sixteen may be had separately in coloured envelope for 2d., or they may be purchased in large quantities at 1s. per 100.

The Literature Department is also stocking a shilling edition of the text of the play, "Damaged Goods." (Postage, 2½d.)

N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Work among the Serbians.

The Manchester and District Federation Unit has had a strenuous and trying summer. The Lazaret has been full with tubercular cases, and in addition there has been an unusual amount of malaria of a very bad type. It has become increasingly clear that further accommodation must be provided for the consumptive Serbs. A hospital in the South of France would serve the double purpose of sparing the invalids a trying sea voyage, and securing for them a perfect climate during their treatment. The Committee are hoping to establish such a hospital. The Serbian Legation in France warmly supports the scheme, and the French Minister of the Interior has given his consent.

The Hospital at Ostrovo has had a trying time with air-raids. A letter lately received describes how a surgical operation of a difficult nature was carried on with bombs falling all round. This is only one of many such incidents during the war, but it is pleasant to hear that our women are maintaining the British tradition of pluck and devotion to duty. Dr. Bennett is coming home, and is succeeded by Dr. de Garie.

Orthopædic Work in Salonika.

Interesting developments in the work of the Girton and Newnham Unit at Salonika will take place in the near future. The hospital is to be moved shortly to a place offering many advantages. The new site is nearer to the station, which serves the hospitals, and has a continuous water supply and good drainage slopes. The accommodation will be increased from 300 to 500 beds by order of the authorities. It is hoped that before long workshops will be opened to undertake all the orthopædic work for the district. Dr. McIlroy is in Scotland on leave, and is making a study of the most recent developments in orthopædic work, and on her return workshops will be opened which will undertake all the orthopædic work for the district.

Dr. McIlroy left Salonika just after the disastrous fire, and has described how they watched for hours, fearing the flying sparks would set fire to the hospital. That danger was averted, and also further damage to the town by a sudden change of wind, which drove the flames out to sea instead of over the buildings. The S.W.H. ambulances gave much help to the homeless people—100 women and children were housed temporarily in the hospital.

A New Hospital in France.

The staff in France have been much occupied with the opening of the new hospital at Villers Cotterets, and are looking forward to very active work.

In the early summer Dr. Frances Ivens was asked by the French Military authorities to take over a hut hospital of 300 beds at Villers Cotterets in the Soissons district, which till then had been used as a military hospital by the French themselves. The request was, of course, acceded to, and members of the Royaumont staff went up in July to direct the necessary alterations and enlargements. There was no official opening, but the first patients were received in the last week of August. All the arrangements are excellent. The Hospital consists of two rows of huts, one behind the other. All along the front row, which consists of five wards named Serbia, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, and Roumania, runs a covered way which opens at one end on to the railway station. Here the hospital trains draw up. The wounded are evacuated into the covered way, and carried along it to their respective wards.

The front row of huts communicates by a covered passage with the back, where are three large wards named Russia, France, and America, the operating theatre, X-ray laboratory, and other offices. The X-ray installation is particularly good, even better than that at Royaumont. This will greatly facilitate the special work for which the hospital is designed, as the cases will be mainly the "grands blessés" suffering from fractures of all kinds.

The hospital has been repeatedly visited and inspected by the authorities, who have expressed great pleasure at the progress of the patients, whose wounds, they say, have "healed in record time."

The work in the new hospital at Villers Cotterets will not in any way interfere with Royaumont, which still continues as an active centre with 230 beds.

Gifts of any of the following articles will be gratefully received by the Equipment Secretary, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh :—

Old bicycle wheels for Orthopædic Department; flannelette pyjamas; day socks; day shirts—flannel or flannelette; bed jackets; warm caps; mufflers; mittens; gloves; vests; pants; cardigans.

The Healthfulness and Ever-readiness of Gas Fires

Two factors principally influence the medical profession in its advocacy of gas *versus* coal fires in the home and at the office. These are healthfulness and ever-readiness.

The relative healthfulness of heating fuels is determined by the proportion of radiant (or radiated) to convected heat produced—a ratio which necessarily depends in no small measure on the mechanism and structure of the stove itself. The old-fashioned gas fire was so constructed that a large proportion of its heat was given off in the form of convection at high temperatures, creating that abomination of all scientists in heating—hot air: hence the prejudice that arose against gas heating. A modern gas fire, on the other hand, conserves and radiates *a full half* of the total calorific value of the fuel used, and gives off another 25 per cent. by convection at comparatively low temperature. Thus gas fires have become fully as healthy as coal fires whilst being infinitely more cleanly and convenient—therefore doctors use and recommend them, especially for sick rooms, where absence of the racket of coal-scoops and fire-irons is a marked advantage.

The ever-readiness of gas fires, valuable also from the doctor's point of view, is an advantage which may further be envisaged from the angle of economy by householders It is a great consideration to be able to command a healthy warmth at will; it is at least as great a boon to be in a position, by the simple turning of a tap, to limit fuel consumption to the actual requirements of efficiency and comfort.

For scientific and medical testimony to the hygienic value of gas for domestic heating, application is invited to the Secretary of the British Commercial Gas Association, 47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

W 69

N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

London Units

On October 22nd, Mrs. Kinnell gave an "At Home" at 38, Upper Grosvenor Street to welcome home some of the members of the London Units who have lately returned from Russia. The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the British Red Cross, was present, and made a most kindly speech of welcome to the returned members. He said that of all organisations with whfch he had to deal, the Scottish Women's Hospitals gave him the least trouble. At the same time he paid a high tribute to the efficiency of all the Units on the different fronts, and said they uphold the best traditions of British nursing. Miss Eleanor Rendel, in the unavoidable absence of Dr. Chesney, on behalf of the returned members, thanked Sir Arthur Stanley for his kind words.

Dr. Louise McIlroy followed with a short speech in which she described the proposed extension of work of the Newnham and Girton Unit at Salonica. (See page 345.)

Mrs. Kinnell reminded the audience of the great debt that the London Units owed to Dr. Elsie Inglis as the founder of the Scottish Women's Hospitals and as their present C.M.O.

Afterwards, Mdlle. Nielka gave a delightful selection of songs, and Mrs. Peck entertained the audience with a most amusing recitation.

Items of Interest.

Mrs. H. J. Tennant, C.H., has been appointed Chief Adviser (Women's Welfare) in the Labour Regulation Department of the Ministry of Munitions.

An appeal is made on behalf of "The Nation's Fund for Nurses," which the British Women's Hospital Committee, 21, Old Bond Street, W. 1, is organising, as a tribute from the people of England to the nurses who have done such splendid work during the war.

The claim of military nurses who served in a theatre of war in 1914 to the badge of honour to be awarded to soldiers was pressed in the House of Commons last week by Major Chapple.

The King has awarded the Military Medal to seven nurses for conspicuous gallantry displayed while on duty during hostile air-raids on casualty clearing stations on the field.

A list has been issued by the War Office of several hundred members of the nursing profession who have done valuable service in military hospitals. This is the second list issued and another is expected to follow shortly.

The Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture wants women tractor drivers. The terms offered are free training (a month), free outfit, and travelling expenses. After training their salary for two weeks will be 25s., then 30s. for a further fortnight, then 30s. plus 1s. bonus for every acre ploughed. When not at work on the tractors, women will be employed on general farm labour.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

OCTOBER 30.

East St. Pancras Liberal Association, Gladstone House, Camden Town—Subject: Women in Industry. 3.15 p.m.

OCTOBER 31.

Norwood—Speaker: Miss Rosamond Smith—Chairman: Miss Chrystal Macmillan—Hostess: Miss Russell, Clifton Lodge, 1, Elder Road, West Norwood. 3.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 1.

Llangollen—First Annual Meeting, Women's Club—Speaker: Miss Broadbent, M.A. 3.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2.

Hampstead—Drawing-room Meeting at 92, Fellows Road—Hostess: Mrs. Park—Chair: Miss Palliser—Speaker: Mrs. Osler (of Birmingham)—Subject: "What Next? The Future of the National Union." 3.30 p.m.

Women Workers' Series—No. 2.

a cup of Rowntree's Elect Cocoa makes a biscuit into a meal

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and in convalescence, whenever "special feeding" is required, there is a case for Benger's Food. It forms with milk a dainty and delicious food cream, which in preparation, becomes automatically made suitable for the weakliest digestion.

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All Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria," and made payable to: The Hon. Treasurer, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, H Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to October 11th, 1917	247,022	16	5
Further donations received to October 18th, 1917:—			
*Employees Bridgeness and Grange Collieries, Bo'ness, per General Manager	8	6	6
Alexander Waddell, Esq. ...	25	0	0
"From a Friend"	10	0	
Miss Julia E. Marshall	1	0	0
*Employees Messrs. Thos. Black & Co., per Miss J. A. Craig ...	1	0	0
*Miss S. P. Morrison, Edinburgh S.W.H., Canteen Work	10	0	
"From a Sympathiser," to be divided between Russia, Salonica, France, and Corsica	2	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (75th con.)	2	10	5
*Alex Cupples, Esq.	2	0	0
*J. W. Morgan, Esq.	2	0	0
*East Grinstead W.S.S., per Miss Florence Buckley, Hon. Treas., to continue "East Grinstead" bed, Royaumont: East Grinstead War Work Assoc. Ltd. (£29 15s. 7d.), Miss Ursula King (£5 5s.), Mrs. Kemble (£1 18s. 7d.), Miss Monica Secretan (1s. 6d.) ...	37	0	8
*Miss A. C. MacLeod	15	0	0
*Birkenhead and Dist. W.S.S., per Miss Mary Dalby, Hon. Treas., October subs. for upkeep of "Birkenhead" bed, Royaumont...	2	15	10
*Miss Grundy	5	0	0
Anonymous	2	0	0
*Falkirk Horticultural Society, per Miss Moir, Hon. Treas. Falkirk W.S.S.: "Tom Waugh" bed, France, 1 year (£50), "Falkirk Horticultural," Serbian Section, 1 year (£50), "Carron" bed, Serbian Section, 6 months (£25), Balance for General Funds (£55 2s. 6d.)	180	2	6
Miss Mary Wemyp...	10	0	0
Per Miss Geraldine Cooke, Edinburgh "Market Day" money, per Miss Carphin ...	113	12	7
*Miss J. Malcolm, India ...	1	0	0
*Gateshead W.S.S., per Mrs. J. T. Dunn, Hon. Sec. (£1 10s.), Private donations (13s.)	2	3	0
*Clerks, Claims and Record Office, Kew, per Miss Janet Smith, to continue "Claims and Record Office, Kew," bed, Villers-Cotteret (4th instal.)	6	16	8
*Stafford Women's Co-op. Guild, per Mrs. Davies, Hon. Sec., per Mrs. Molt, Hon. Treas. Stafford W.S.S.	5	0	
	£247,443	9	7

* Denotes further donations.

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"East Grinstead" (Royaumont, further 9 months)	East Grinstead W.S.S., per Miss F. Buckley.
"Tom Waugh" (France, 1 year)... ...	Per Miss Moir, Hon. Treas. Falkirk W.S.S.
"Falkirk Horticultural" (Serbian Section, 1 year)	Per Miss Moir, Hon. Treas. Falkirk W.S.S.
"Carron" (Serbian Section, 6 months)	Per Miss Moir, Hon. Treas. Falkirk W.S.S.
"Etta Shankland" (Home Unit, 1 year) (see COMMON CAUSE list, week ending August 2nd, 1917)	Per Greenock Local Com., S.W.H., Proceeds of Charity Matinée, Central Picture House, Greenock.

CHILD WELFARE.

At a meeting of the Child Welfare Council—composed of representatives of sixty-seven societies and bodies directly concerned in Child Welfare—held at the offices of the Social Welfare Association for London, on October 18th, the following resolution, which was moved by Mr. W. Baker, I.L.B., Hon. Director, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and seconded by the Rev. C. V. R. Scott, Organising Secretary Waifs and Strays Society, was unanimously adopted:—

> "That in view of the heavy mortality amongst children of unmarried parents and the extreme difficulties and dangers often attending their maintenance, this Council is of opinion that further and organised provision should be made without delay for their protection and upbringing on the principle that, where practicable and desirable, mother and child remain together for at least twelve months."

Mr. R. J. Parr, Director National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Dr. Wellesley Harris, Medical Officer of Health for Lewisham, Mrs. Gotto, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, and others, strongly urged the need for prompt action. Many valuable and interesting suggestions were made for dealing with this urgent and difficult problem, which has become intensified by the scarcity of good foster-mothers.

A committee was appointed, with instructions to collect forthwith all available information from public and private sources, and to report to the Council the steps which after such enquiry, they recommended should be taken.

It is asked that any communication on the subject may be addressed to the Secretary, Child Welfare Enquiry Office, Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C. 2.

JUSTICES AND THE PROBATION ACT.

Mr. Theodore Dodd, J.P., who delivered the third lecture in connection with the Police Court Rota of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, pointed out that the Probation Act, 1907, is practically a dead-letter, despite the efforts of successive Home Secretaries to induce the Benches to work the Act and give the supervision essential for its proper working. At Birmingham, however, where the Act has been carried out, the report of the Justices of the Children's Court shows that in a year three-fourths of the children completed their probation satisfactorily. Mr. Dodd also quoted much valuable evidence as to the successful results of the probation system. Home Secretaries have urged the Justices by circular to obtain the help of women in probation work; but in some Courts no cases have been put under the charge of such women helpers, although offers of help have been accepted. Mr. Dodd stated that urgent reforms are the appointment of men of all classes to the Benches, especially the representation of working men, also that women should be appointed Justices of the Peace: these appointments to be in the hands of the Home Secretary. Much in the future will depend on whether the working classes have any confidence in the Justices, and whether the Justices will act so fairly between different classes as to deserve that confidence. (See announcement below.)

Coming Events.

Sunday, October 28th.—British Socialists Society, 4, York Street Walworth Road, at 11.30 a.m. Speaker: Miss Helen Ward, on "Women in Industry and the Use of the Vote."

November 1st.—Under the auspices of the Child Study Society. P. B. Ballard, M.A., D.Litt., on "Child Study and School Reform." Chairman: C. W. Kimmins, M.A., D.Sc. 6 p.m.

October 29th.—Under the auspices of the State Children's Association, a Conference, at the Conference Hall, Central Buildings, to consider how the scheme of Mothers' Pensions can best be adapted to British conditions. Chairman: The Right Hon. the Earl of Lytton. 3 p.m.

October 30th.—At 11, Tavistock Square, W.C. "Sincerity in Education," by E. Sharwood Smith, Esq., M.A. (followed by discussion). 6.30 p.m.

October 31st.—Miss Maude Royden will preach at the Conference Hall, Central Buildings, Westminster, at 3.15.

November 1st.—At the Caxton Hall. A Conference on the problem created by the pocket-money worker. Chairman: Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck. Speakers: Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Violet Markham, and Miss Susan Lawrence.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MISS A. MAUDE ROYDEN will Preach at Conference Hall, Central Buildings, Westminster, Wednesdays, 24th and 31st inst., at 3.15 p.m. (instead of 6.30).

ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL AND SOCIAL HYGIENE LECTURES.

ON account of air-raid conditions, the two next Lectures in connection with the Police Court Rota will be held earlier:—FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 3 p.m., Police Court Procedure and Rights of the Public in Courts. Mr. F. W. Pethick Lawrence. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 3.30 p.m. Work of the Police Court Mission. Mr. F. W. Barnett. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 5.30 p.m. The Position of Women under the Laws of England. Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P.

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(Continued on page 348

Continued from page 347]

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